THE COMIC READER # 20

October 8, 1963

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK FANS & COLLECTORS

HERE IT IS, THE MOST PROVOCATIVE NEWS EVER TO APPEAR IN TCR!!!

With its May and June, 1964 issues, National Periodical Publ., Inc. will make the following editorial shifts:
Julius Schwartz will edit DETECTIVE and BATMAN,
Jack Schiff will edit MYSTERY IN SPACE and STRANGE ADV.,
Mort Weisinger will edit WORLD'S FINEST COMICS,
George Kashdan will edit SEA DEVILS, and
(unconfirmed) Murry Boltinoff will edit BLACKHAWK.

Things you can expect to see:
The Elongated Man (by Infantino-Giella) replacing The Martian Manhunter in DETECTIVE.
Carmine Infantino doing some Batman stories in DETECTIVE.

Much other news is sure to follow as a result of these changes. TCR will publish the latest information as it is released, so be sure to get your request in for the next issue right away. Here's how.

(1) Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Jerry Bails, 22529 Karam Ct., Warren, Michigan, 48091. IMPORTANT: The envelope must be at least nine (9) inches long and carry 10¢ in postage (16¢ for airmail).
(2) Canadians should send coins instead of stamps. Outside of North America, TCR is sent FREE to comics fans.
(3) No subscriptions to TCR are available, and PLEASE do NOT send more than one envelope at a time.
(4) Advertising rates will be supplied upon request.

POLICY STATEMENT: In order to serve effectively as the official newsletter of THE ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK ARTS AND SCIENCES, THE COMIC READER will refrain from commenting on pro-news. It is hoped that this policy will encourage pro-editors to continue to feed their latest news releases to TCR for the earliest possible distribution to COMICDOM. Meanwhile, all fans are encouraged to continue to submit news items to TCR for the widest possible circulation of the Comic World. Remember, TCR is read by over 800 fans and 200 pros. With your support, it is capable of BIGGER and BETTER things.

As of October 8, 1963, the Report on the 1962 Alley Awards has not appeared. The report was submitted in early April and promised in May. Many fans have written me for an explanation. I have held off as long as it is possible, but now I must place the blame squarely where it belongs. Although TCR offered to publish the results when it was clear they were going to be late, Ronn Foss assumed complete responsibility for the publication of the report. For reasons of his own, about which I could only speculate, he has chosen not to release the results, even though he is obviously fully aware of the damage this has done.

OTHER ITEMS IN THE NEWS:

As of October 8, 1963, 44 leading comic fans have signified their approval of the Charter of THE ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK FANS AND COLLECTORS. This Charter establishes the COMIC READER as the official newsletter of the Academy, and takes the first steps toward establishing an Executive Board to be elected by all Comicdom to conduct the Annual Alley Awards Poll and initiate other projects in the interests of COMICDOM. The Charter and other news of the Academy's first Executive Board will be forthcoming in the next issue of TCR.

Invisible Girl will get a new power in FANTASTIC FOUR #22--the power to create flexible force fields, with an interesting limitation.

Hawkman is cover-featured on MYSTERY IN SPACE #89 in "The Super Motorcycle Menace."

In ADVENTURE #318, Superboy becomes the enemy of The Legion of Super-Heroes. In another story, The Legion is turned into babies.

Another Flash-Green Lantern story will make the March or May FLASH. The Trickster returns in the Feb. issue.

An upcoming all-Luthor issue of SUPERMAN introduces a new villain, The Destoyer.

Supergirl will meet her parents in a future issue of ACTION.

Only four or five heroes star in JLA #25, "Outcasts of Infinity." The rumor is: This may set the pattern for the future. Incidentally, Superman is prominently cover-featured.

Basil Wolverton's Powerhouse Pepper (Timely Comics) is (was?) being published in a 35¢ joke book called CARTOON, COMEDY-PARADE. The Nov. issue featured a 6-page PP strip, and other features intended for adults only. Mr. Wolverton, as most of you know, has art in very recent issues of MAD.

The current SEA DEVILS (#14) carries the work of Irv Novick (Remember him on Steel Sterling?), and Jack Abel, formerly of EC. They draw themselves into the stories.

For those who can't figure out the difference in Mike Sekowsky's work for DC and Gold Key, note this: Bernard Sachs (of the old Peddy and Sachs team) usually inks Mike's DC work, while Mike Peppe is the Gold Key inker who puts the brush to Mike's GK pencils.

Here is some sad, sad news--I have it on good authority that the sales on DOCTOR SOLAR have not been good enough, and he may be dropped. However, sales on upcoming issues and letters to the editor might turn the tide. Write: Matt Murphy, ed. director, WESTERN PUBL. CO., 850 Third Ave., New York 22, N.Y.

FREEDOM AGENT has gotten the axe. Gold Key has no plans for "annuals", despite the rumor about a TUROK ANNUAL. I understand that GK requires a comic to sell 300,000 before it is continued. Ouch, that's a sharp axe!!

Look for a change (a big one) in the Beast in X-MEN #3

Gold Key has a new hero in the bull-pen warming up. Working title: Second Samson--a future hero who will live after the next world war to battle mutants. The best thing about it is: It will come from the typer of Otto Binder, a legend in the comic world.

MORE ITEMS IN THE NEWS:

Art credits dept. -- MY FAVORITE MARTIAN by Russ Manning. Those beautiful covers on SPACE FAMILY ROBINSON #5 and MAGNUS #4 by George Wilson. DOCTOR SOLAR art now by Frank Bolle. Sheldon Moldoff illos "America's Fighting Heroes" in American Armed Forces Features. "Shelly" is well remembered for his art which established the original Hawkman. The recent FanMo article on the shadow was written by the editor of RADIO HERO, Jim Harmon; the Frankstein article came from the pen of fan Dick Kyle. Leo Dorfman wrote the latest TWILIGHT ZONE. I'd like to give Dick Wood proper credit for his work at Gold Key, but I'm getting conflicting reports. (How 'bout some help, Bill?) The last Eclipso episode (HOUSE OF SECRETS #63) was drawn by Alexander Toth, one of those amazingly talented men who was great even in his teens. He also illos for KARLOFF and TWILIGHT ZONE.

The John Carter reprints will probably be #375 of Four Color Series. Gold Key is considering more signed art in the future. (I believe Jesse Marsh last signed TARZAN in #2.) Also in the thought box: a possible "variety" comic featuring two or three GK heroes in separate stories; Carson Napier (remote, depends on JOHN CARTER sales); a "special announcements" dept.

COLLECTORS' DEPT.: TOPS #1 March/54 publ. by J. B. Publishing Corp. ("J" for John Musacchia, "B" for Bill Woolfolk) 4" x 5 3/4" slick mag, 15¢, carried a 2-page feature, "Jekyll-Hyde of the Comics" about Wm. Gaines horror comics and plea for racial tolerance. One page reproduces 4 panels from an EC comic making plea for tolerance.

A recent issue of AMAZING STORIES features a science-fiction profile on Edmond Hamilton (a DC writer--Legion of Super-Heroes). Profile also mentions Julius Schwartz and Mort Weisinger.

Another comics publisher bit the dust--the PRIZE GROUP (Feature Publications). It sold its last two remaining titles, YOUNG LOVE and YOUNG ROMANCE to National Periodicals. The Prize Group was the home of Dick Briefer's Frankstein, the Green Lama, Black Owl, Yank and Doodle, and Fighting American.

KONA #10 sees Kona returning to Monster Isle. NAZA #2 will give us giant bats. Dell will also put out OUTER LIMITS, based on the ABC-TV show.

THE COMIC READER has, in recent weeks, enjoyed visits from West Coast fans Bruce Pelz (who scared my neighbor into calling the police), Ted Johnstone, Dian Girard, and Fred Jackson.

NEWS CREDITS THIS ISSUE: Don Thompson, Paul Gambaccini, George Pacinda, Paul Thompson, Dick West, Ken Russell, Otto Binder, Marvin Wolfman, William Lieberson, Julius Schwartz, Jerry Rudolph, Charles Lichtman, Ron Fradkin, and Charles Martin Wotpy.

A few copies of THE AUTHORITATIVE INDEX TO DC COMICS are still available at $1.50 each. I do not plan to reprint the INDEX for a long time to come, so this is your last chance to have this valuable collectors' item in 1963. --J.G.B.

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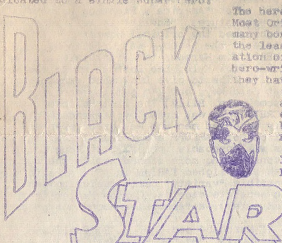
[illegible] was the latter [illegible]
a column of his own. This boy, Rick Weingroff, [illegible] un-expected heights with his column, achieving in the short space of two years what took Jerry Bails two months and Mike Vosburg only one--recognition. Yes, the struggling young writer was finally recognized--unlike Bails and Vosburg, he was recognized as a total incompetent who didn't have the ability to spell his name interestingly. Despite this, Rick Weingroff has just created the first fan-zine dedicated to a single super-hero:



The hero, modestly billed as the Most Original Hero in Fandom, has many bonuses to offer fandom, not the least of which is the presentation of an opportunity to other hero-writers to tell Rick that they have a more original hero (this writer has the writing ability to refute any such claims--especially since he burns them up the minute he receives them).

In the first issue, we present some of the most original stories ever published in a fanzine--they feature high action and a large chunk of comedy--the brand of comedy that has made Rick Weingroff a by-word in the field of serious writing. In the first issue, you will meet the Black Star, Chunky Miller, The Costumemaster and Pat Andrews, as well as seeing the "Black Star Go Hollywood".

Aside from the stories, we have several special comedy features. A satire on Mike Vosburg's Masquerader Speaks (we figure that if he won't buy a copy of Black Star, he deserves a few knocks), a satire on the Wonder Woman letter column (we figure that she could have at least sent us a magic lasso), a satire on Biljo White's "TYRO" section (featuring the Gentleman), a mad version of the 1962-63 Alley Awards (which we call the Tally Awards, simply because that is a better name for such a project) and an hilarious interview with Superman (we know it is hilarious because all the jokes are stolen from professional comedians). All this, plus a cancelled stamp, a series of forty, matched margins and multi-colored pages (blue and purple stencils were used because the typist is color blind) is yours for the ridiculous price of 30¢ (it's ridiculous, but maybe you'll pay it anyway).

As a special bonus to friends of Jerry Bails, I offer this bargain, get-acquainted price for the first action-packed issue (the first action-packed issue is not necessarily the first number of this zine, but we'll eventually get an action-packed issue). You pay just 25¢ for the normally 30¢ ditto zine, plus five cents for postage (sorry, no stamps can be accepted). In this method, you don't save any money, but Rick Weingroff gets rich! You may make a donation of 30¢ by sending an envelope to BLACK STAR COMICS #1, 67 Windemere Rd., Rochester, New York. If you wish to receive a confirmation of your order, you may enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope. We won't acknowledge the order, but we can steam off the stamp and use it later on.

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